

Becenti Chapter

P.O. B
Crownpoint, New Mexico
Phone: (505) 786-2283 Fax: (505) 78
E-mail: becenti@navajochapter.org

Navajo Names---Tl'oo'ditsin (Barren of Trees) or Jadi hadit'i'ih (Antelope Look-Out Poi

[Home](#)

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[Scholarship Info](#)

[B.E.R.T.\(ALERT\)](#)

[NN Links](#)

[NM Links](#)

[LGSC-ENA](#)

[Local News](#)

[Employment Links](#)

[Area Attractions](#)

[Education Resources](#)

[Aerial Photo](#)

[Tech Info](#)

[Links](#)

[Chapter Data](#)

Becenti Chapter

Becenti Chapter is located in Land Management District 15 of the Eastern Navajo Agency in north central part of McKinley County, New Mexico. The Chapter House is 10 miles north of the community of Crownpoint and .5 miles west of New Mexico State Highway 371 (Veterans Memorial Highway). The chapter land base is in the "checkerboard area", and includes Indian Allotments, Tribal Trust, Fee lands, Private, Public Domain and BLM lands.

The Becenti Chapter conducts monthly meetings to keep residents informed; residents have a forum to express their opinions to their Navajo Nation Council Delegate or to decide on matters concerning their chapter.

Upcoming Chapter Meetings:

- [Planning Meeting, May 1, 2006 @ 4 pm](#)
- [Regular Chapter Meeting, May 21, 2006 @ 3 pm](#)

The chapter has a low population density of 1.16 people per square mile. The core of the chapter population is near the 165.25 acre chapter compound where NHA has built 65 housing units.

The land characteristics can be described as rolling hills, sandstone mesas, and sandy washes. Chaco Wash of the eastern edge of the chapter land drains to the north into the San Juan Basin. Mesa tops gently slope with sides having been carved by precipitation and wind erosion. Elevations range from 6,169 to 6,354 feet above sea level.

The Navajo Tribal Council certified Becenti Chapter on February 15, 1955. According to the local people, the chapter is known by two names: tl'oh ditsin, meaning "barren of trees" and Jadi hadi t'i'ih' meaning "Antelope Lookout". These names are representative of past times, life, and conditions of the area. Since the names were hard to pronounce by Non-Navajos, the chapter was named simply "Becenti, after Chief Becenti, the first documented leader of the community.

In the past, the land was once densely covered with pinon and juniper, which were eventually depleted due to demand for shelter and firewood. The probable abundance of trees is suggested by two names: Tsin neez Chooz and Tsin yaa naalk'd. Many types of wild animals used to roam the area, notably antelope. Antelope were rounded up and chased off a cliff at Jadi hadi t'i'ih, disabling them or instantly killing them. They were used for food and clothing. Mythical, the people believe that the pinon and juniper trees took the shape of an antelope, with its legs to the east, the neck and head to the



Becenti Chapter House

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President

Benjamin Benally
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Kathleen Shorty
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Rachel A. Tso
Community Services Coordinator

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Lucy Cayatineto
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south and body to the north, Jadi hadi t'iih is located two miles south of the chapter house. The mesa also has scenic qualities. The chapter became a viable entity during the 1920's and 30's. A census survey was taken in 1928 at Mahalland Well; an artesian spring located about seven miles west of the current chapter house. Chief Becenti, Robert Bob Perry and John Perry, Sr. were the first elected official to represent local concerns. Although meetings were conducted at different places, it was not until 1939 that a chapter house was built to accommodate gatherings at one fixed location. The chapter house is a three-room, native stone mason building and is very worthy of consideration as a historic building.

"Servicing the Governmental Needs of the Becenti Chapter Residents."

Navajo Nation Information ----> <http://www.navajo.org>

Contact Information: Rachel A. Tso, Community Services Coordinator
Becenti Chapter
Address: P.O. Box 708, Crownpoint, New Mexico, 87313
Phone: (505) 786-2283
Fax: (505) 786-2285
E-Mail: becenti@navajochapters.org
Rachel A. Tso E-Mail: rachelatso@hotmail.com
Rose Cowboy E-Mail: rosecowboy@hotmail.com

